



## **UNFORTUNATELY, DIVORCE HAPPENS.**

No one gets married thinking, "I'm going to get divorced." No one longs for the pain they endure while hearing the words, "I want a divorce." But it happens. And if the current stats are accurate, it happens a lot. Even in the church.

But there's hope and it begins before divorce.

**Reunion** is a ministry designed to help heal marriages that are struggling. If you're reading this and think there's still a chance for reconciliation, please contact our marriage pastor about Reunion.

But, even if you work really hard to save your marriage it can still sometimes end in divorce. That's when it's time for you to move beyond pain into the hope, healing, and spiritual growth offered to us in Jesus.

"Many couples when going to marriage counseling have this reality—one spouse is emotionally going to 'divorce counseling'"

-from the DivorceCare video teaching

## **HOW WE WOULD CARE FOR YOU**

We have a collection of different ministries designed to help those who are separating, divorcing, divorced, or who have been hurt by divorce. They look at divorce through the redemptive lens of the Gospel—that Jesus came to save and heal those who are broken and hurting. Even so, you don't need to be a Christian to attend.

#### IT TAKES A FAMILY WORKING TOGETHER.

We encourage families to engage DivorceCare together if at all possible, with each family member participating in the appropriate ministry briefly described below. We do however require a parent, or parents, to sign up with their child, or children, who are attending For Teens Too or DC4K. Both DivorceCare and DC4K are accepted by Family Court as substitutes for their Kids Turn program.

**DivorceCare** (for divorced or separating spouses) Unfortunately, there's a 65% failure rate among subsequent marriages of those who have been divorced. The *DivorceCare* curriculum used in this ministry is designed to prepare the divorced person for healthier, and more successful relationships following the end of their marriage. It focuses on teaching God's Word in a way that's relevant to a separating or divorced person's experience.

# For Teens Too (12-17 years)

When a divorcing couple has a family the pain radiates to their children. Teenagers are old enough to understand what's going on, but they need additional emotional and spiritual support to process their parents' split. Teens have specific needs that are met by the curriculum we use, which is biblically-based with interactive topics and related activities. It helps them heal before they have to carry the pain and hurt of their parents' divorce into their future relationships.

**DC4K** (DivorceCare for Kids, 6-11 years) Much like older siblings, younger children need additional support to process and heal from a divorce. They need specific curriculum geared to their age group and learning styles. That's why each session combines: games, story time, workbooks, DVD dramas, group discussion, music, crafts, and snacks. It's fast paced and digs deep, helping kids deal with their pain and recover well.

# WHAT IF THINGS ARE TOUGH BETWEEN US, BUT WE'RE NOT DIVORCED YET?

Most of the people who seek help through *DivorceCare* are separated or divorced, but some aren't. *Reunion* is always an option for those looking to revitalize their marriage, but the *DivorceCare* curriculum can also be helpful. It intentionally includes content designed to help a husband and wife understand the consequences of their decision to divorce. In the past, separated couples have attended *DivorceCare* and reconsidered their divorce proceedings. In some cases one spouse will attend before making a final decision to end their marriage. In any case, *DivorceCare* can serve as a place where God restores a marriage.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

### I NEED HELP, HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

It's easy. Call 503.644.9104, or email our ministry leader: divorcecare@b4church.org. You can start at anytime.

After you contact us, one of our leaders will be in touch to help you, and your kids, if needed, through the process of getting into the right group(s).



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